

HCS HB 1639 -- TEACHER CERTIFICATES

SPONSOR: Funderburk

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 17 to 5.

This bill allows a teacher who obtains certification on the basis of the American Board for Certification of Teaching Excellence to be granted a Missouri teaching certificate in elementary education and early childhood education. The elementary education certificate requires 90 contact hours for preparation, of which 30 must be obtained in an elementary classroom.

PROPONENTS: Supporters of the bill say that the program is successful, especially in increasing the percentage of men in the profession and the amount of teacher-community involvement while decreasing teacher turnover rates, principally because of its focus on midcareer applicants who already have significant life experience.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Funderburk; and American Board for the Certification of Teaching Excellence.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the organization misrepresents its record of effectiveness.

Testifying against the bill was Carl Petersen.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say Missouri already has five alternative pathways to certification; usually, elementary school teachers are not in short supply.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri National Education Association.